



# RESEARCH & EVALUATION

## Quarterly Newsletter

November 2013—Issue 5

### First Order of Business...

This edition of our newsletter contains summaries of the current projects on which we are working. The first project is an update from our Accountability Unit. There will be more to come on A-F Letter Grades after our December State Board meeting.

Our staff is working on a number of program evaluations in R&E, several of which are highlighted in this newsletter. Our work on one particular evaluation has been a real joy. On page 3, you will read about the Arizona Commission on the Arts, in conjunction with ADE, backing an innovative fine arts program in the schools. It has been inspiring to see the enthusiasm and creativity that these schools have embraced during a time in education when so much emphasis is on accountability for districts, schools, principals, and teachers. Of course, we won't know

the outcome of the evaluations and whether the programs met their objectives until the end of the school year, but the idea that these schools are embracing the arts in this manner is exciting.

R&E is also heavily involved in the state model for teacher evaluations. This endeavor has been exhausting and energizing at the same time. We are striving to consider as many facets of teaching as possible so that we may more completely capture data reflecting teacher "effectiveness." This has been a challenge to say the least.

Currently we are working with the evaluation of special education teachers; in doing so, we are seeking input from the teachers themselves, along with state and national experts. These discussions, especially with the current teaching staff, have been invaluable, and they have caused the formation of a coalition

to help drive policy decisions. We are optimistic that the resulting state model will accurately document the accomplishments of our Arizona teachers. We know that AZ LEAs are working on this situation as diligently as we are, and we welcome any opportunities to share out and learn from others.

Our R&E staff has grown this past quarter. Dr. Whitney Phillips, a researcher and program evaluator, is dividing her time and expertise between Health & Nutrition and Indian Education. Derek Fay is working with the Arizona State Board of Education on the Move on When Reading initiative and with the Arizona State Board for Charter Schools while finishing up his doctorate in psychometrics. In addition, we are excited to introduce Dr. Fei Zhao, a research scientist for R&E, and Dr. Jennifer Marmo, a research associate, working on OELAS data for R&E. All four are wonderful additions to our staff.

All the Best,

*Carrie*

Dr. Carrie L. Giovannone  
Deputy Associate Superintendent of R&E

### ACCOUNTABILITY UPDATE—Metcalf

ADE Research & Evaluation is finalizing the last of the 2013 A-F Letter Grades. "Late receipt" schools received their letter grades in late October when all final data had been received and verified; the 2012-2013 technical manual will be published on the ADE Research & Evaluation website no later than November 30, 2013. As we continue to exchange dialogue with the field, we plan to update the State Board on the development of the 2014 College and Career Readiness Index at the December meeting. Also, in order to increase understanding of the Bottom 25%, its use in accountability, and its usefulness to the field, Dr. Yovhane Metcalfe will be giving a presentation at the 2013 MEGA Conference. She will also be presenting on this topic at other venues as requested.

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### ELL UPDATE—Marmo

The following is a 2013 State Accountability summary and 2014 updates. The ELL reclassification rate threshold was set at 23% for FY2013. Forty-four percent of schools and 40% of LEAs met this criterion. The statewide reclassification rate was 23.6%. 75% of schools and 66% of LEAs met the 95% tested criterion. For FY 2014 we have no plans to change the reclassification rate threshold; it will remain at 23%. Also, ADE will be providing LEAs and Schools a prelim-

## ELL UPDATE—continued

inary 95% test list in December. For questions regarding calculations of ELL points for state accountability, please visit the Research & Evaluation website and select the “State Accountability” tab.

The Office of Civil Rights, Department of Justice (OCR DOJ) Directive is upon us. ADE recently provided LEAs and schools a list of their FY 2014 qualifying students. You can access your list of qualifying students by logging into Common Logon, clicking on the OELAS link, and then selecting Department of Justice Settlement Resolution Agreement. We were incredibly pleased and proud of the work all LEAs and schools did last year. We were able to successfully exit over 50% of the students from 2013. ADE now needs LEAs and schools to review and update their information as soon as possible. Details about what ADE needs are located on the OELAS website. Comprehensive documents are located on the OELAS home page under Hot Topics – simply select “Directive Regarding the AZELLA Resolution Agreement.” There are detailed instructions, webinars, and contact information available to assist you in completing this information.

The delay on calculating the FY 2013 AMAOs was due to ongoing discussions with the US Department of Education. We anticipate a release of the results in mid-November.

OELAS will be holding its annual conference this year at the JW Marriott Tucson Starr Pass, December 11-13. Dr. Jennifer Marmo, the R&E/OELAS research associate, will be presenting detailed information regarding state and federal accountability and Micky Gutier, OELAS Data Specialist, will be hosting a session on what’s new in 2014 regarding data and reports. For conference registration information visit the OELAS website.

## HEALTH & NUTRITION UPDATE—Phillips

Research and program evaluation is now being conducted within the Health and Nutrition Division. The function of Health and Nutrition Services is to administer federally funded Health and Nutrition Programs through the Coordinated School Health, National School Lunch, School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, Food Distribution, Child and Adult Care Food Service, After School Care Snack, and Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Programs. Program evaluations are being conducted to determine the effectiveness of child nutrition education programs as well as a program to fight the rise of childhood obesity. Assessments of Local Wellness Policies are also being taken to determine the health and wellness environment of schools.

## MIGRANT PROGRAM EVALUATION—Tang

We are currently conducting a migrant education program evaluation. This evaluation is an important step in the continuous improvement cycle and the results will inform and improve both the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and Service Delivery Plan.

This evaluation entails collecting data from multiple resources, including ALEAT, ADE’s grants management system, and AZ LEARNS. Both qualitative and quantitative research methods are employed to evaluate the current migrant education program. The quantitative data gathered from AZ LEARNS are used to evaluate the achievement of state performance goals. The migrant program implementation strategies (i.e., professional development opportunities for teachers, extended learning time and credit accrual opportunities for migrant students, basic school-readiness concepts for preschool age children, and referral services and educational opportunities for parents) are examined through qualitative analysis. The integration of both quantitative and qualitative analyses helps us draw a comprehensive picture of the current migrant education program implementation and state goal achievement.

In addition to pulling the existing data, migrant parent survey and migrant student survey data are collected. Since migrant parents and students are the recipients of migrant education program services, their opinions on the current migrant education program are invaluable to us. We are very appreciative to Ralph Romero (Migrant Education Program Director at ADE), Mary Haluska (Migrant Education Program Coordinator at ADE), all LEAs that implement migrant education program, migrant coordinators, migrant parents, and migrant students for their help and support on this program evaluation project. For more information about this project, please feel free to contact Research and Evaluation ([Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov)).

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For more information about the Migrant Education program go to <http://www.azed.gov/populations-projects/migrant-program/>

## STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS THROUGH ARTS PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM—Tang

The Arizona Commission on the Arts, in partnership with the Arizona Department of Education, developed the Strengthening Schools Through Arts Partnerships Program. This program aims to help “D” labeled schools strengthen their teaching and learning in arts education through school and community partnerships. For school year 2013-2014, four schools (Avondale Middle School, Alhambra High School, Children First Academy Phoenix, and Morgan Maxwell K-8 School) have been selected to receive the grant and implement the art education program in their schools.

We were honored to be invited by Lynn Tuttle (Director of Arts Education at ADE) and Alex Nelson (Director of Arts Learning at Arizona Commission on the Arts) to assist these four awardees in developing sound program evaluation plans. We worked with these awardees by visiting their schools, discussing program implementation and evaluation plans with them, and providing them with resources. The innovative fine arts programs being incorporated in the classroom curriculum and afterschool programs are very impressive. We look forward to continuing the collaboration with the school staff and reviewing their results from the study. For more information about this project, please feel free to contact Research and Evaluation ([Achieve@azed.gov](mailto:Achieve@azed.gov)).

### AZ STATE BOARD FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABILITY—Fay

Building off of A-F accountability, the Arizona State Board of Charter Schools implements a separate academic performance framework (APF) for the assessment of charter schools. Aside from the processing of late receipts, the APF has been completed. In the days to come, the APF will again be computed to update the data for late receipt schools.

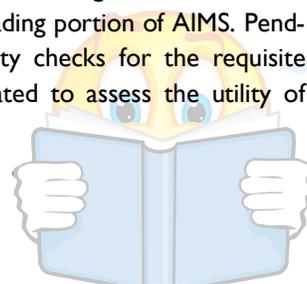
### EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT SERVICES—Okoli

ADE’s Exceptional Students Services (ESS) team, in collaboration with Louisiana State University, is running two project initiatives with select schools and districts in the state. Both the Teams Intervening Early to Reach Students (TIERS) and Data Accountability Reading Team (DART) initiatives are geared towards bridging the reading gap that exists between students with disabilities and the regular education peers.

During the working sessions, ADE and LSU provide the participating schools and districts with their reading assessment data for grades 3-8 broken down by disability type and environment. The school team, which is comprised of reading specialists, principals, superintendents, special education directors and, in some cases, parents, digs through the data, identifies problem areas, and formulates research questions and hypotheses which are then used to design implementable strategies to mitigate the problems.

### AZ STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MOVE ON WHEN READING—Fay

In accordance with the Move on When Reading initiative, schools have been implementing programs to foster the development of reading skills for third grade students who fall far below (FFB) on the reading portion of AIMS. Pending the arrival of and integrity checks for the requisite data, the work is being initiated to assess the utility of those programs.



### USEFUL LINKS

Please see [this](#) page for details on the ESEA Flexibility Request.

You can find a comprehensive step-by-step guide to our Common Logon application [here](#).

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEGA Conference	November 19-21
December State Board Meeting	December 9
OELAS Conference	December 11-13

### CONTACT US

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